

## Pace Park Advisory Board Summary of Recommendations

Presented to the Village of Salado Aldermen

August 2, 2018, 6:30 pm

### Pace Park Advisory Board (PPAB) Recap:

- 11.1.17 – notice of congratulations for appointment to the PPAB by Don Ferguson
- 11.6.17 – initial meeting to elect officers and set meeting dates (second Thursday of each month)
- 12.14.17 – met at Pace Park to walk the boundary and get acquainted with the park features and layout
- 1.25.18 – met at Pace Park as a follow-up with Don Ferguson sharing updates on park usage
- 2.8.18 – distributed historical documents on Pace Park and court documents; began visioning activity for board members using Great Parks criteria (*1. Recommended social activities; 2. Maintaining the park; 3. Promoting community involvement; 4. Developing Salado Creek through Pace Park; 5. Capitalizing on the park's unique and special character; 6. Making the park visually interesting; 7. Reflecting local culture and history throughout the park; 8. Ensuring a safe, welcoming and accommodating park.*)
- 3.8.18 – reviewed document compiling PPAB park improvement feedback; prepared for community meeting (Village Voice notification on 3.15.18)
- 3.27.18 – public meeting held to collect community input on park improvements
- 4.12.18 – meeting cancelled due to a Village conflict (Keep Salado Beautiful grant meeting)
- 5.10.18 – first opportunity to review and discuss public feedback as the PPAB
- 6.14.18 – prioritized park initiatives using PPAB and community feedback to present to the Village of Salado tentatively on July 6, 2018

The Pace Park Advisory Board would like to thank the Village of Salado Aldermen for creating a park advisory board, thank the citizens who took the time to attend the public meeting to share their ideas, and thank Don Ferguson for his continuing guidance and for collecting and organizing all of the community feedback for our review.

The Pace Park Advisory Board believes that there is great transformative value of the W. A. Pace Memorial Park on the quality of life in the Village of Salado. There are endless possibilities for promoting health and welfare and for contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of our village. The Village of Salado has a strong desire to revitalize Pace Park as a thriving gathering place for youth, families and adults in the coming years. By engaging professionals in the park's redesign, and improving the park in manageable phases, it is possible for Salado to have an ideal park in the heart of the town and capitalize on the beauty of Salado Creek.

The feedback provided in this document is for advisement only, but it directly states the wishes of the community. This feedback is essential for building a master plan and for grant writing. It is highly recommended that the Village of Salado hire an experienced landscape architect to develop a master plan using the information provided.

Pace Park Advisory Board Recommendations:

<b>Phase I: Rethinking the Infrastructure, Laying the Groundwork</b>	
1.	<b>Site work and foundation preparation.</b> Clear the existing, overgrown areas by shredding and/or conducting a controlled burn; remove all hazardous obstacles throughout the park, such as large rocks and debris, and fill holes for a smooth, safe and inviting surface that will be family friendly.
2.	<b>Landscaping architect designs.</b> Hire an experienced landscape architect to develop a master plan using the information provided. There is an expressed desire to provide managed access to the creek while keeping the park looking natural with sustainable and drought-tolerant vegetation, including native grasses, wildflowers, the butterfly habitat, bald cypress trees, creating an inviting lawn area. The landscape design must include irrigation methods as needed.
3.	<b>Incorporate a walking path/trail system.</b> The trail system should embed historical and informational markers, including Pace family information along park paths, and the paths should include limited amounts of artwork displayed by local artists.
4.	<b>Capitalize on uniqueness.</b> Add a gateway signage on Pace Park Road, similar to that which existed years ago.
5.	<b>Expand limited parking.</b> Build a small parking lot for park guests; expand the use of the parking lot for special community events. Create head-in parking along the park road by moving existing bollards back approximately 10 feet. Consider parking meters in certain areas of the park, and consider parking fees for the lot; the monies collected could go to park improvements.
6.	<b>Temporary and permanent signage.</b> Add uniform informational, park rules, parking, private property and wayfinding signage, using caution not to “over sign” the park. Temporary signage is a must as park improvements move forward, and permanent signage will follow when the walking path/trail system has been established and landscaping helps define park areas for appropriate usage. The two entrances to Pace Park should be inviting, define rules and be easily recognizable by anyone traveling down Main Street. Permanent signage design should be reflective of the community’s arts, culture and history.
7.	<b>Reclaim the gravel pit area for park use.</b> Properly fence the park boundary adjacent to the former Kinnison property. Use the gravel pit for a specifically designed park use that fits into the master plan, such as ropes climbing, bike or skateboard ramps, fill and clear for parking, etc.
8.	<b>Playground and pavilion upgrades.</b> Redesign the playground area for safety and enlargement, make all repairs and upgrades to the pavilion and restrooms, and demolish the small storage building to make more room for a larger playground.
<b>Phase II: Organization and Operations</b>	
1.	<b>Park maintenance.</b> Once the park has been properly landscaped and walking paths exist, then the Village should maintain the park at all times or contract with an organization or company to regularly mow, empty trash barrels, clean restrooms, regularly weed around swimming areas, etc. Establish relationships with civic organizations and volunteers to assist with park beautification and several community work days per year to encourage public participation.
2.	Establish a “QR” Code program to provide information on rules, features and park history
3.	Establish a fee schedule that allows Salado residents lower fees for park use.
4.	Enhance the existing lighting and install additional electrical power for vendors.
5.	Increase police patrols and enforce park rules.

6. Invite local artists to display their art works throughout the park (sculptures, statues, etc.); develop a rotating schedule for artists and coordinate with the Public Arts League of Salado (PALS).
7. Add bike racks, WIFI, limestone tables and benches near designated swimming area, add trash receptacles, park seating and tables that meet with the form and function of the park master plan.

### **Phase III: Social and sporting activities. Build it and they will come!**

1. Establish a Friends of Pace Park group to help fund and promote park activities. The Friends of Pace Park can be established in the early phases of park improvement to build a support base, and specific fundraising initiatives can follow when a clearer picture of the needs is established.
2. Encourage business sponsorship of park activities: a concert-in-the-park series, weddings, car shows, movies in the park, carnivals, community events such as Sirena Fest, reinstate summertime *Wednesday in the Park* for children, Scottish Clan event, kite contests, art exhibitions (reinstate the Salado Art Fair), food truck fairs, pet shows, a dog park, rock carving competitions, and youth events.
3. Promote sporting activities such as disc golf, exercise and stretching stations, a climbing wall, a basketball court, sand volleyball court, yoga, tennis courts, soccer, archery, and make the dedicated swimming areas more user friendly. Depending on the master plan, decide on sporting events that fit with the design space.
4. Partner with local museums to provide programming for park events and utilize gault programming and displays.
5. Utilize social media to promote events, and post a calendar of events that is always current. Make it easy for citizens to know about events, and make it simple to request the use of the park for community and private events.